

McMurdo Area User Committee
Ad hoc MAUC meeting report
McMurdo Station
1 January 2008

Attendees

Peter Doran, Chair
Andrea Polli, W-490
Leslie Blank, RPSC
Don Voigt, G-079/I-205
John Mitchell, A-140
Kathy Welch, B-420
Byron Adams, B-424
Diana Wall, B-424
Ross Virginia, B-423
Deneb Karentz, B-301
Alison Murray, B-301
Akira Yamamoto, A-140
Jonathan Cohen
Karen Joyce, RPSC
Bill Jirsa, RPSC
Patricia Jackson, RPSC
Chris Cheng, B-005
Art DeVries, B-005

Discussion of the recommendations and NSF/RPSC responses to the July annual meeting:

- The summer meeting was the first time in several meetings bandwidth was not discussed. We had an increase from 3 to 10 mb/second last week. Things are getting better.
- Staging space is still a major topic. There is an effort to reduce the footprint to increase internal and storage space available.
 - Key is planning ahead for storage requirements for the duration of your project
 - The Jamesway at Williams Field is not the best solution because of cargo and shuttle logistics
- The meeting's recommendation for wireless in dorm rooms has been implemented. There are problems with the suggestion to add wireless capability in Building 155.
- "Just-in-time" is an effort to retrograde unneeded parts and supplies that take space which could be put to better use. It focuses on operational workcenters but will have an unavoidable impact on science as well for items and support services that are indistinguishable from operational items

- There are materials and equipment stored on station that are good candidates for retrograde, for example more methanol than will ever be used, at least one milvan full of lab gloves.
- There is equipment from past, inactive science projects in the winter-over storage.
- One grantee reported taking unneeded equipment and completing paperwork for resale/retrograde but it was back in storage the following season
- It appears there is an opportunity to better manage project storage space and removal of unneeded equipment and supplies stored on station.
- The new policy for providing meet-and-greet service in Christchurch by explicit request only seems to have worked reasonably well, though not flawlessly.
 - One group requested the service and did not receive confirmation of the request. The meet-greet was provided but without confirmation, the group and the service providers missed each other at the airport.
 - It would be more helpful if groups with excess baggage were met as standard procedure.
- There is rad contamination in some labs at non-dangerous levels that are also not detectable by scintillation counters. It is also difficult and perhaps impossible to eliminate, so it is something for groups to be aware of and future lab assignments to take into account.

Discussion of new topics of concern:

- BFC equipment availability and RFI condition was not clear in the RSPs. It is hoped that BFC will continue to provide equipment that is impractical for groups to purchase and bring. Examples include Nansen sleds, Scott Tents, kitchen boxes. This is a possible topic for the next regular meeting.
- Flight lunches received a vocal “no” to the question “Did you like the box lunches?” (There were a few exceptions)
- ECW gear issue.
 - Changes are unclear at this time. Grantees need advance notice so they can plan ahead and add budgets for warm weather clothing if necessary
 - It is not a trivial issue, but important to safety. People who live in warm weather do not have or know what to purchase for cold weather; graduate students often do not have personal funds available for purchase
 - This is a possible topic for the next regular meeting.
- Crary stock room hours seem to have been scaled back. In past years, it was open in the evenings.
- It would be nice to have a place to make private phone calls in the lab
- It is hard to find a quiet place for recording interviews. With the emphasis on education/outreach and for artist/writers, it can be a problem finding a venue. A small room with sound absorption features would be nice.